

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-8

1.-8 Currently Cancelled

9. (Original) A method comprising polishing a composite material containing silica and silicon nitride with an acidic polishing slurry comprising:

(a) from about 0.1 to about 5%, by weight, of a colloidal silica abrasive,  
and

(b) from about 0.5 to about 10%, by weight, of a fluoride salt.